(e) the intensive efforts made by Government for development of negelected districts?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected.

National Handloom Credit Fund

†3513. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a demand has been made to Government for establishing a separate National Handloom Credit Fund to provide economic assistance to handloom industry;

(b) if so, the details of the demand;

(c) whether Government have so far taken decision in respect of the demand; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) No request has been made to the Government for setting up a National Handloom Credit fund. However, the High Powered Committee set up by Government of India under the Chairpersonship of Ms. Mira Seth, Member, Planning Commission, had recommended in its report in December, 1996 for creation of National Handloom Credit Fund for covering weavers outside the cooperative fold. The recommendation was made when NABARD's refinance facility was not available to the Weavers outside the Cooperative fold. This mater was taken up with NABARD and they have now extended this facility to State Handloom Corporations for covering weavers outside the cooperative fold from the year 1997-98.

Modernising textile industry

3514. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) The status of textile industry today in term of production, employment, exports and foreign exchange earnings; and

(b) the steps being taken to modernise textile industry?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.